United Nations A/64/812–S/2010/309

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
11 June 2010

Original: English

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Agenda item 14
Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

Security Council
Sixty-fifth year

Identical letters dated 9 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the annexed statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the eleventh round of the Geneva talks, held on 7 and 8 June 2010 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alexander **Lomaia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

10-40328 (E) 150610

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 9 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia on the eleventh round of the Geneva talks

The eleventh round of the Geneva talks was held on 7 and 8 June 2010, at which the issues of security and stability in Georgia's occupied Abkhazia and Tskhinvali regions and the safe and dignified return of the internally displaced persons and refugees to the places of their habitual residence were discussed. Meetings of the two working groups were held, in which participants took part in an individual capacity. Deliberations were moderated by the United Nations, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and attended by participants from Georgia, the United States of America and the Russian Federation. The Head of the provisional administration of the former South Ossetian Autonomous District, Dimitri Sanakoev, and the Chairman of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, Giorgi Baramia, took part in the eleventh round of the Geneva talks. Representatives of the proxy regimes from Tskhinvali and Sokhumi also participated in the working groups.

Discussions were marred by the walkout of the participants from the proxy regimes of Tskhinvali and Sokhumi from the Working Group on the Issues related to the Safe and Dignified return of the Internally Displaced Persons and Refugees. Owing to the unconstructive position of the Russian Federation and its proxy regimes, participants were unable to finalize the first reading of the "Agreed Undertakings" — a document which has been in the process of elaboration since the beginning of 2009, and which, as it seems now, is far from an agreement. It is especially unfortunate that such a démarche happened on the issues which are of direct relevance to the well-being and future of the victims of ethnic cleansing.

Both working groups focused their attention on the existing security and human rights situation in the Gali region, Abkhazia, Georgia. The Georgian side condemned violence that had occurred in Gali, including the recent killings and arson of the houses of innocent civilians. Participants agreed to hold a special incident prevention and response mechanism meeting next week, to discuss the worsening security and human rights situation in the Gali region and particularly the recent incidents. Also, on 7 June, an information session was convened by the Co-Chairs, where the representatives of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees briefed the participants on the various best practices of human rights protection in the conflict-affected areas. The Georgian side believes that despite the unconstructiveness of some participants, the Geneva talks represent a valuable forum, where the issues that affect the daily lives of the persons living in the occupied territories could be discussed. Protection of the human rights and dignity of the population living under occupation is among the priorities of the Government of Georgia at the Geneva talks.

In the Working Group on Security and Stability, the Georgian participants once again raised the issue of the full implementation of the 12 August ceasefire agreement, and, in particular, the unconditional withdrawal of the Russian forces

from the occupied regions of Georgia. The Georgian side, as well as other participants in the discussions, expressed particular concern over the statement of the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation, Grigory Karasin, who called into question the existence of the 12 August ceasefire agreement and the obligations stemming from that document. That statement once again demonstrates that Russia is trying to avoid its international legal obligations vis-à-vis Georgia and the whole international community.

Participants continued discussing the document of the Co-Chairs on the non-use of force and international security arrangements. Unfortunately, on this issue no consensus is yet possible owing to the highly unconstructive position of the Russian Federation and its proxy regimes. The Co-Chairs once again called upon them to engage in the discussions on the document in a constructive manner.

The Georgian side particularly stressed the necessity to unconditionally release all persons who have been unlawfully detained by the Tskhinvali proxy regime since the end of the active hostilities in August 2008. This issue will continue to be addressed at the Geneva talks until all detained persons are reunited with their families. The Georgian side also expressed concern at the fact that the normal functioning of the Tskhinvali incident prevention and response mechanism has not been possible because of the unconstructive approach of the Tskhinvali proxy authorities. The Co-Chairs shared the position of the Georgian participants that the regular and full work of this mechanism should be resumed shortly.

During the eleventh round, the Co-Chairs proposed a set of ideas on building trust and transparency and further consolidating the incident prevention and response mechanisms. In this context, it is of particular importance to address the ways to facilitate the unhindered movement of the local residents across the occupation line as well as to conduct joint visits to the areas of concern. It was agreed to return to these issues during the future rounds.

One of the issues that the Co-Chairs attempted to solve was ensuring the unhindered supply of gas and water to the war-affected populations. Once again it became clear that the proxy authorities of Tskhinvali under the guidance of Moscow prefer to politicize the issues of a purely humanitarian nature in order to score political points. As a result of such politicization, basic utilities are not provided to the war-affected population on both sides of the occupation line. The Georgian side hopes that there is still room for reasonable compromise, which could lead to the resumption of talks as to the population of the occupied Akhalgori region.

The Georgian side maintains hope that a due assessment of the irresponsible behaviour of Moscow and its proxy regimes during the eleventh round of the Geneva talks will be provided by the international community. Only through the objective evaluation of the current process will it be possible to reach tangible results within the Geneva framework. On its behalf, the Georgian side once again reiterates readiness to continue full and constructive engagement in the talks with an aim of discussing all outstanding issues, including the most sensitive and controversial ones, for the benefit of security and stability in Georgia's occupied regions and improvement of the daily lives of the internally displaced persons and those persons living under foreign occupation.

Participants agreed to hold the twelfth round of the Geneva talks on 27 July 2010.